

July 10, 1999

William Hubbard
Dockets Management Branch (HFA-305)
Food and Drug Administration
5630 Fishers Lane, Room 1061
Rockville MD 20852

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Re: Docket No. 98N-1038,
"Irradiation in the Production, Processing, and Handling of Food"

To whom it may concern:

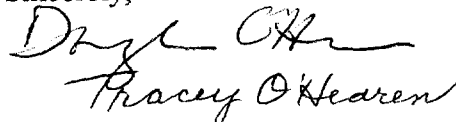
I am very unhappy about labeling requirements for irradiated food being watered down. Any foods, or any foods containing ingredients that have been treated by irradiation, should be clearly labeled with a written statement on the principal display panel indicating such treatment. The statement should be easy to read and placed in close proximity to the name of the food and accompanied by the radura, the international symbol of irradiated food. If the food is not packaged, this information should be clearly displayed on a poster in plain view and adjacent to where the product is displayed for sale.

Like other labels required by federal law, irradiation labels must be truthful and not misleading. Harmless sounding phrases like "cold pasteurization" are misleading because pasteurization is an entirely different process of rapid heating and cooling. The terms "treated with radiation" or "treated by irradiation" should be retained because they accurately portray the irradiation process. The radura symbol, without written disclosure, is not adequate.

Consumers have a right to know how their food has been processed and/or grown. Yet, we constantly have to fight this battle against manufacturers who feel that they should be protected from divulging questionable production processes. If they are so sure there is no harm in what they are doing, then tell them to label the package truthfully and spend their advertising dollars educating us about its safety.

Bottom line, my wife and I agree with Public Citizen. We want an FDA that protects our right to know what we are getting in our food and drugs and our right to choose what is best for us and our family.

Sincerely,



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